

brother George Hedrick, of Dayton, Va., for five dollars received a few days ago, and brother J. F. Koontz, of Conemaugh, Pa., has sent in three dollars. Had not heard from Brother Koontz for many months. Glad he has our work on his prayer list again. Please accept thanks. Johnstown congregation continues to donate five dollars monthly, and Bethany congregation, of Va., still remembers us, tho not every month. "A. B.," of Altoona, Pa., comes along faithfully each month with an offering of \$1.00. A sister, from Lincoln, Neb., also sent one dollar quite recently. All contributions are reported to Brother Cassel each month. Will each donor named in this letter please accept my thanks? And will you please join me in prayer that other hearts may be opened?

There are some who seem to think that since we have our own church home that therefore we do not any longer need money. This does not lessen our expenses. All who have any knowledge of the real conditions in the large cities realize this. Those who do not know should make a visit to the cities some time and learn just what we have to contend with. Our letter is already too long, so will close for the present.

W. M. LYON.

315 9th St., S. E.

Sister E. G. Good, of New Market, Va., is on the list of \$1.00 donors for last month; overlooked her name. She will please accept thanks.

W. M. L.

The Sunday School

LESSON 2—JULY 8, 1900

Jesus the Bread of Life.—John 6: 22-40.

Golden Text.—Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life.—John 6: 35.

Lesson Thought.—The great need of the soul is the Bread of Life which is Christ Jesus.

Time.—The morning after our last lesson, A. D. 29. Just before the Passover which began that year April 16.

Place.—A beautiful plain on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, south of Capernaum.

Persons.—The first half of the third year of Christ's life.

Home Readings

John 6: 41, 58; Exod 16: 4, 15; Luke 22: 13-20; John 17: 1-12; John 17: 20-26.

Lesson Text

22 On the morrow the multitude which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save one, and that Jesus entered not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples went away alone.

23 (Howbeit there came boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.)

24 When the multitude therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they themselves got into the boats, and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

25 And when they found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw signs, but because ye ate of the loaves, and were filled.

27 Work not for the meat which perisheth, but for the meat which abideth until eternal life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him the Father, even God, hath sealed.

28 They said therefore unto him, What must we do, that we may work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

30 They said therefore unto him, What then dost thou for a sign, that we may see, and believe thee?

31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.

32 Jesus therefore said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, It was not Moses that gave you the bread out of heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread out of heaven.

33 For the bread of God is that which cometh down out of heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34 They said therefore unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

36 But I said unto you, that ye have seen me, and yet believe not.

37 All that which the Father giveth me shall come unto me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

38 For I am come down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the will of him that sent me, that of all that which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

40 For this is the will of my Father, that every one that becometh the Son, and believeth on him, should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Lesson Links

In the second lesson before this Jesus had fed the multitude on the eastern shore of the sea. In the last lesson he had sent the multitude away, after sending the disciples to the boat to go to the western side of the lake. Jesus had gone to a mountain to pray and when he saw the disciples struggling against a contrary wind, he went to their assistance walking on the water. At once they arrived at the other side.

Lesson Story

The next day when the people on the eastern shore saw that Jesus was not there, they could not understand how he had gone across, unless he had gone around by land. For there were no other boats there except the one in which Jesus and the disciples had come over until some came ashore driven by the contrary wind against which the disciples had struggled. In these the people embarked and came to Capernaum.

The People's Question

When these people had found Jesus on the Capernaum side, they asked, "When did you come hither?" They must seem friendly to this person who had fed them yesterday, for perhaps he would feed them again today.

Christ's Answer

In reply Jesus pulled the mask from their real motives. "You seek me not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves I multiplied and were satisfied as to your bodily wants." Christ's miracles were always "signs." They were intended to lead from the physical to the spiritual. He heal-

ed men physically that it might be a sign to them of their spiritual needs and his power to supply them. But here were people who saw no "sign" in the miracle.

The Meat That Perishes

Christ gives them a needed but vain exhortation, "Work not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which abideth unto eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give you; for God the Father has given his work the seal of truth."

O, how much the world needs this exhortation today! Some men make thousands of dollars and yet are poor as poverty; some make money to use for God and are rich in the spending of it. All depends on how you make money and how you spend it, as to whether you are working for "the meat that perisheth."

The Work of God

In reply the people asked, "What shall we do that we might work the works of God? They did not understand Christ. Many people ask the same question to day in the same spirit of parley but with no desire to do it.

Jesus replied in that beautifully clear statement, "This is the work of God, to believe on him whom God hath sent." It is true today! Men can't work their way by their own efforts into the kingdom of God. They get in it by believing.

The People's Request for a Sign

The people again more with a desire to partly than to know the truth, asked, "What sign showest thou then, that we may see and believe? What do you do?" And then they added a hint that showed their whole desire in seeking Jesus, "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, which Moses gave them." They had come for bread, not to be told the way to eternal life. They were getting impatient that Jesus did not give it to them.

Did Moses Give The Manna?

Jesus replied by telling them they were mistaken in believing that Moses gave them the manna. It was God. It is God who also gives them the true bread from heaven. But do they want the true bread, which they need far more than bread for the body? Their choice will show. The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Of course, this referred to Himself. But the people were too carnal and selfish to understand it.

Did the People Know What They Asked For?

Then they made a request which was greater than they meant, "Lord, as our Messiah King, give us this bread from this on. We will be your subjects if you will furnish us bread." People often ask for more than they know or intend.

The Bread Of Life

In order to reveal to them plainly what he meant, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. He that cometh to me shall not hunger and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."